

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is requested. After entry of the amendments, claims 2 and 6-11 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 6-11 have been amended; claims 3 and 4 have been canceled.

In the Official Action dated July 7, 2008, the Examiner has maintained his restriction of the claims into Group I (claims 2-4 and 6-11), and Group II (claim 23) and has rejected claims 3-4 and 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Further, the Examiner rejects claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,736,516 to Kepley et al. (Kepley). Claims 4, 6-8 and 10-11 have been deemed allowable subject matter.

Restriction/Election

The Examiner has required election to the restriction requirement of Groups I and II. Applicants have made the election of Group I, claims 2-4 and 6-11.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112)

The Examiner has rejected claim 3 (and claims depending therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner believes the word “midway” is indefinite because it is unclear where the midway of the apparatus is located.

Applicants have canceled claim 3 and included the subject matter of claim 3 into claim 2. However, the Applicant did not include the word “midway” in the amended claim 2.

Applicants respectfully submit the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejects claims 2-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kepley. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejection.

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PATENT

Applicants have amended claim 2 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 4 and intervening claim 3. Claims 3 and 4 have been canceled. Applicants have amended claims 6-11 to depend from claim 2.

Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) be withdrawn.

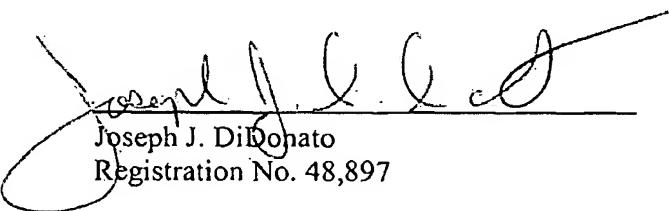
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe the foregoing is a full and complete response to the pending Office Action, and thus respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned to advance prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of the fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 02-2555.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joseph J. DiDohato
Registration No. 48,897

Blank Rome LLP
One Logan Square
18th & Cherry Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-569-5421

JJD/jyr